



**Fourmile Creek Watershed Management Authority  
Meeting Minutes**

**July 29, 2015 AT 10:30 AM**

Public Services Building  
City of Ankeny  
220 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Ankeny, Iowa

Those in attendance were as follows: Bob Rice, Cindy Valin, Richard Long, Ben Champ, Gary Lorenz, Jennifer Welch, Karen Oppelt, Amy Bryant, Mark Arentsen, Dan Pritchard, Mark Land, Amanda Oswald, Clifford Leonard, Skip Moore, Teva Dawson, Scott Hutchens, Jim Jordahl, and Sean McMahon.

1. Welcome – Ben Champ opened the meeting.
2. Approval of April 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes – Skip Moore motioned to approve the minutes, Cindy Valin seconded, and the motion carried.
3. Fourmile Creek Watershed Management Association Coordination – The executive committee met last week. The objective was to discuss how we move forward now that the planning grant is complete. They were looking at combining the local watersheds. The meeting stressed with moving into the implementation phase, however, there is not funding available. The WMA could look to continue with Snyder as the consultant/advocate for the next six months, prior to getting a watershed coordinator. Polk County is a potential funding partner and will share the agreement with the executive committee. What happens after six months? Snyder can submit grant applications during this time period (WRA, in particular, is a future implementation funding partner). The WMA needs to get out to all the councils/boards/commissions because it will get to be where a financial contribution is necessary. There is a feel that the WMA needs to chart out a sustainability program. The model would include having a watershed coordinator and projects are grant funded, however, Snyder pointed out this is a portion of the Watershed Management Plan. Other funding needs would include monitoring expenses, if necessary. One question: how do we coordinate for each jurisdiction that are in multiple watershed organizations?

There was a suggestion to have a monthly meeting and cancel if there is not enough information for the agenda. A doodle survey will be sent out for the same time and same location for a monthly meeting (for example, the fourth Thursday each month from 4 to 5 pm). Monday or Tuesday do not work for most members, but times on Wednesday and Thursday, with different time options were suggested.

Polk County will fund Snyder's continued involvement to staff, in a selected manner, the meetings for Fourmile Creek WMA and subcommittee work for the rest of the calendar year. Polk County will share the agreement with the executive committee. Cindy Valin moved to agree to Polk County's funding, Skip Moore seconded the motion, motion carried.

4. Fourmile Creek Watershed Management Plan Publication

Mark Land shared the draft press release. The plan is to promote the release of watershed management plan. The plan is now on the website and there is a plan to try to get an article in the newspaper about it. A hard copy of the plan is available for each jurisdiction. Snyder is preparing a summary of the report to present to each board, jurisdiction, or council for those interested. There is a general scope of practices that need to be done and an order of magnitude costs. Questions to provide information on: What was the objective of the watershed association? Why the association was formed and what is the purpose of it? What is the expected impact of these actions? Ankeny, Des Moines, Pleasant Hill, Polk County, Polk SWCD, Bondurant, Altoona, and Alleman are interested in having a presentation.

Sean McMahon introduced himself to the group. He is from the Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance which is an alliance to increase the pace and scale of farmer-led efforts to improve water quality. The group was formed by the Iowa Corn Growers, Iowa Soybean Association, and Iowa Pork Producers. The board suggested the IAWA provide a limited presentation on IAWA's purpose at the next meeting. The IAWA is focused on finding solutions to improve water quality.

5. Project Updates – Scott Hutchens reported that a stream bank restoration north of Broadway in Des Moines of about \$1 million is in progress and will be put out to bid for work later this fall. There are two other stream reaches with sewer exposed (Des Moines and Pleasant Hill) where they will apply for \$2 million in sponsored projects.

Mark Land shared that a \$3.27 million property buyout for 16 houses is ongoing. Bob Rice wanted to commend Des Moines City staff for doing an excellent job of working with impacted families in the buyouts. The next phase will be to develop a plan for the greenbelt area for green space/park/conservation purposes.

Mark Land updated the group on a potential Deer Creek regional basin. There are discussions with Polk County on deciding where the best location of a regional basin will be for the benefit of the watershed.

6. Other Items for Discussion – No other items were discussed at this time.

7. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned by a motion from Skip Moore, seconded by Cindy Valin, and the motion carried.